



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

For Immediate Release:
July 24, 2003

News Media Contact:
Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0511
e-mail: rosemary.kimball@fcc.gov

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND “NUTS AND BOLTS” INFORMATION SESSIONS HIGHLIGHT LAST WEEK’S INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES MEETINGS IN RENO, NV

Washington, DC – The FCC’s two day Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI) meeting, held July 17 and 18 in Reno, NV, attracted approximately 100 participants, including representatives from over 20 tribes, who participated in panel and roundtable discussions on topics concerning strategic planning for increasing telephone and broadband penetration in Indian Country.

The meeting, which the FCC hosted in cooperation with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, included panel discussions on the following topics as part of the July 17 workshop:

- Infrastructure Development and Feasibility Planning
- Implementation of Tribal Service Strategies
- Strategic Development and Financial Planning
- Tribal Telecommunications Operations and Universal Service Support
- Public Safety and Interoperability

The July 18 Roundtable was open to all participants and was attended by twenty tribes, representatives from various bureaus of the FCC, federal agency representatives, and several tribal and telecommunications businesses. The Roundtable was an interactive, and served primarily as a government-to-government consultation session on tribal telecom goals and objectives. Tribal and FCC representatives discussed regulatory rules, tribal government priorities and perspectives, and how future FCC outreach and regulatory efforts can better address telecom deployment challenges facing the tribes.

K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC’s Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, said, “The Reno meetings were an excellent example of the ongoing inter-governmental cooperation that the ITI facilitates. The large turnout and the very positive reaction to the distinguished speakers and panelists was very encouraging. We left Reno with our partnerships strengthened, our lines of communications improved and with many ideas for future ITI activities. “

The FCC's ITI is comprehensive program that seeks to promote understanding, cooperation and trust among American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal organizations; the FCC and other governmental agencies; and the telecommunications industry. The ITI program is designed to build partnerships to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Indian Country. Specifically, ITI seeks to increase the telephone penetration rate among tribal communities; facilitate the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure in Indian Country necessary to provide telecommunications services; and inform tribes and tribal consumers about financial support available through federal government programs, including Universal Service Fund programs.

For information on this and other topics of interest to tribes, visit the FCC's Tribal Initiatives Web site at www.fcc.gov/indians.

For information on this and other topics of interest to consumers, visit our Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb

To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on www.fcc.gov/cgb/emailservice.html.

- FCC -